

TINTWISTLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Medical Officer's Report for the year ending 31st December, 1968

To the Chairman and Members of Tintwistle Rural District Council

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the health of Tintwistle for the year 1968.

Deaths during the year totalled 16. This figure is below the average and gives us a corrected death rate of 10.4 per thousand of the population, a figure which is under the national figure of 11.9 per thousand. It will again be noted from the table that follows that the majority of the younger deaths are male, all the deaths under 65 being men.

		Deaths by Sex and Age Groups				
		0 - 24	25 - 64	65 - 74	75+	Total
Males		-	3	3	4	10
Females		-	-	2	4	6

Infectious diseases did not provide any problem during the year.

This is my last report to the Council as I am about to leave public health to enter general practice. This has not been an easy decision to take as I have been in public health work for over 22 years. In my opinion the responsibilities of a Medical Officer of Health in environmental preventive medicine are steadily diminishing. Living standards involving cleanliness in air, milk, food and water, good housing, healthy condition of work and the control of infectious diseases are now well established. The maintenance of these standards lies now largely in the hands of the Public Health Inspectorate and the immunisation work carried out by General Practitioners. It is not so long since every authority of any size at all maintained its own hospital for infectious diseases. Today one such hospital meets the needs of a very large region with a population of several millions. Folk still die, especially the menfolk, but the killers of today are no longer the ones that can be controlled by the Medical Officer of Health. They are the degenerative diseases and the diseases associated with the smoking of cigarettes. Only a wide-spread change in personal habits coupled with effective Government action can now make any difference in our national and local death rates. Medical Officers of Health will still be needed in the community but unless they are in charge of a large population they will be needed only on a part-time basis.

I would like to record my appreciation of the Council's deep interest in all health matters under their control and would also like to thank Mr. Dunstan and Mr. Skirrow for their great help and co-operation during my tenure of office.

Yours faithfully,

A.S. DARLING.

Medical Officer of Health.

Tintwistle Rural District Council.



POPULATION

The Registrar General's estimate for mid-1968 was 1,490.

BIRTHS

There were 21 live births during 1968. Of these 13 were males and 8 females.

The Crude Birth Rate was 14.1 per 1,000 compared with 22.4 per 1,000 in 1967. When adjusted for comparative purposes with other areas the birth rate was 14.00 per 1,000 compared with 16.9 for England and Wales.

There were no Still Births.

DEATHS

The number of deaths during 1968 was 16. Of these 10 were males and 6 females. (See page 4).

INFANT MORTALITY

There were no deaths under the age of twelve months.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

No deaths occurred as a result of pregnancy.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following figures indicate the extent to which all types of notifiable infectious diseases occurred.

Whooping Cough	1
Measles	15

TUBERCULOSIS

There were three cases of Tuberculosis (2 pulmonary and 1 non-pulmonary) on the Register at the end of the year.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CARE OF MOTHERS AND BABIES

The Clinic at Christ Church School, Tintwistle, continued to be held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. A doctor, nurse, and members of the Ladies' Voluntary Committee attended each session.

Attendances were as under:-

<u>New Cases</u>	<u>Total Attendances</u>	<u>Average Attendances</u>	<u>Seen by Doctor</u>
18 (24)	483 (691)	21 (28)	81 (106)

Figures in brackets indicate the corresponding numbers in the previous year.

The Ladies Voluntary Welfare Committee provides valuable assistance to professional staff by the sale of infant foods, the provision of teas for mothers, and the performance of clerical duties. In addition to the stock of proprietary infant foods maintained by this Committee, National Welfare Foods also are sold.

A representative of this Committee attends meetings of the Hyde Divisional Health Committee, thus providing a very necessary link between the two Committees.

NURSING SERVICES

The services of a Health Visitor who is responsible also for covering the Longdendale U.D.C. area are available. Her duties include the visiting in the homes of all children under the age of 5 years, attendance at Clinic sessions and the visiting of school children in need of medical supervision.

The care of the aged and infirm in their own homes forms an important part of her duties, and visits to cases of Tuberculosis and other Infectious Diseases are carried out by this Officer.

Cases of general sickness in the home receive nursing attention from a District Nurse resident in Hollingworth and employed by the Cheshire County Council.

For maternity cases a Domiciliary Midwife resident in Hollingworth covers the Council's area.

Each of these nurses owns a car, or has the use of a County car.

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1968 IN THE RURAL DISTRICT OF TINTWISTLE

CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 wks.	4 wks. and under 1 yr.	Age in Years						
					1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-
28 Ischaemic Heart Disease	M F	3 1	-	-	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	2 -
29 Other Forms of Heart Disease	M F	- 2	-	-	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- 2
30 Cerebrovascular Disease	M F	2 2	-	-	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- 2
31 Influenza	M F	- 1	-	-	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
33 (1) Bronchitis and Emphysema	M F	3 -	-	-	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -
38 Nephritis and Nephrosis	M F	1 -	-	-	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
48 All other Accidents	M F	1 -	-	-	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M F	10 6	-	-	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	4 4

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TINTWISTLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Inspector's Report for the year ended 31st December 1968

In presenting this report which will be the last to be written with Dr. Darling as your Medical Officer, I would like to take the opportunity of thanking him for the assistance and willing co-operation received from him throughout our period of joint service, which I have very much appreciated.

WATER SUPPLY

Details of supply are as described in previous years reports, the undertakers being Manchester Corporation Waterworks who undertake frequent sampling of mains supply, and whose Chief Chemist has reported the supply as being consistently satisfactory both chemically and bacteriologically. No change took place during the year towards fluoridation of the mains supply.

There are no properties on stand-pipe supply, and with the exception of approximately 25 dwellings the whole of the remaining are on mains supply laid internally to the properties.

Two samples of mains supply were reported by the Public Health Laboratory as being completely satisfactory. A sample taken from the Youth Hostel at Crowden was reported as 13 Coliform Bacilli and 13 Esch.Coli. (type 2) per 100 ml., this being a private supply fed through a Berkfeld Filter. This result revealed bad practice in connection with the filter which was immediately rectified and a sample taken a week later was completely coli free.

The fitting of Berkfeld Filters to private supplies in the Peak Park Area under arrangements referred to in last year's report proceeded and a sample taken at the Old Vicarage, Crowden before treatment in the filter showed counts of 90 for both Coliform Bacilli and Esch.Coli. (type 1), while a sample from the same supply at the same time after filtration had a completely Nil Count.

HOUSING

There was no further house building, either private or local authority during the year.

3 Standard Grants and 1 Discretionary Grant improvements were completed during the year, this total being the lowest in number for many years.

Bathroom provision including internal water-closet was also carried out at two dwellings without grant aid.

Written requests for action towards compulsory provision of Standard Grant amenities were received from the occupiers of the block of properties 28 - 38 (7 properties in all) Conduit Street, Tintwistle, but legal advice indicated there was little hope of progress in this because of the absent landlord and consequent lack of proof of ownership.

The owners of two cottages in Stocks Brow, Tintwistle which had been vacant and subject to deterioration over a period (referred to in last year's report) intimated their agreement to convert the two cottages into one dwelling of satisfactory standard.

Voluntary agreement was reached with the owners of eight properties in New Road/Sexton Street, Tintwistle on proposals referred to in last year's report, and Standard Grant applications were approved in respect of Nos. 1,3, 5,7 New Road during the year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES, SEWERAGE, ETC.

The district is 100% water carriage served (approximately 40 properties being drained to septic tanks).

The re-constructed and modernised sewage works functioned satisfactorily during the year, despite the fact that two of the samples of effluent taken by Mersey Weaver River Authority were minimally unsatisfactory due to exceptional circumstances at the time of sampling, arising from temporary adverse operating conditions resulting from thefts of the mercury seals to the filter distributors.

Still outstanding was work to re-construct the two main storm overflow chambers to replace the malfunctioning existing overflows, this project being in the hands of the Council's Consulting Engineers. In view of the fact that the Council's sewers also receive practically the whole of the street gully discharge in the area of the village, an approach was made to the Highways Authority, Cheshire County Council, requesting negotiations with a view to contribution towards the cost of the new storm overflows and regularising of responsibility financially on sewer maintenance. At the end of the year no progress at all had been made in this respect, due to the delay on the part of the County Council.

A length of sewer at Crossgate Lane was re-laid by the County Council.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Collection throughout the year continued to be by private Contractor, using non-purpose built vehicle, with weekly collection throughout the area, with the exception of the isolated farms and properties where collection was at fortnightly intervals. The service was maintained satisfactorily apart from the basic shortcomings of the vehicle.

However, towards the end of the year negotiations with the adjoining authority of Longdendale U.D.C. were moving towards finalisation of an agreement with that authority to carry out the refuse collection service, and a figure was agreed for the service, arrived at after an organisation and methods study undertaken at the request of Longdendale U.D.C.

Tipping throughout the year continued on the site to the South of West Drive, there being the ever present problem of unsatisfactory cover and fire risk. A report was submitted to the Council on the fractured surface water pipe laid on the east side of the tip to accommodate also wash-out discharge from Manchester Corporation Waterworks Filtration Plant, which condition was contributing to instability of the tip.

A proposed site for a new village school was adversely reported on by the County Medical Officer because of its proximity to the tip, though by the end of the year the anticipated agreement with Longdendale U.D.C. for refuse collection also included alternative tipping site outside the Tintwistle area.

In addition negotiations were still in progress between Glossop M.B., Longdendale U.D.C. and Tintwistle R.D.C. with a view to the setting up of a joint pulverisation plant, though progress on this was very slow, and meanwhile a joint study group based on Stockport and involving fourteen authorities with a total population of 450,000, was being carried out by the Local Government Operational Research Unit to advise on refuse disposal, this authority agreeing to participate on a non-committed basis.

CIVIC AMENITIES ACT, 1967

Facilities made available by the Council included the removal of bulky and special items of refuse, including household furniture free of charge on request, and removal of unwanted motor vehicles for destruction at a fixed £2 charge.

CIVIC AMENITIES ACT, 1967 (CONTD)

Three derelict vehicles were removed during the year, one by voluntary agreement, and two in default after the affixing of 7 days notice of intention. In one case the Cheshire Constabulary instituted proceedings for unlawful abandonment and secured a conviction and fine in respect of same.

RODENT CONTROL

Free treatment is given at all premises, and in addition to regular baiting at the Sewage Works and Refuse Tip, the whole of the sewer system was baited, there being not a single "take" at any one of the 47 manholes treated.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

No special mention is indicated. One food premises was the subject of notice for improvement during the year; 7 premises remained on the Council's register under the O.S.R. Act 1963.

Routine milk sampling as before, continued to be carried out by the County Medical Officers Department, the following being a summary of the results.

	Pass	Fail	Void
Untreated Farm Bottled Milk (Methylene Blue Test)	13	-	-
Pasteurised Milk (Methylene Blue & Phosph. Tests)	3	-	-
Sterilised Milk (Turbidity Test)	2	-	-
Ultra-Heated Treated Milk (Colony Count less than 10)	6	-	-

Samples of raw milk from producer/retailers submitted to Brucella examinations showed the following results:-

	Milk Ring Test		Culture	
	Negative	Positive	Negative	Positive
Retail Samples	9	2 + 1 +	2	Nil
Bulk Samples	2	Nil	1	Nil

Two samples of raw milk given guinea pig inoculation test were reported negative as to tubercle infection.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

No action was taken under this heading. The District is not designated as a "black area".

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

There is only one factory within the district, and one outworker on the register. No contraventions were found.

F. SKIRROW.

Public Health Inspector.

